



Honoring the Merchant Marine Designing the Flag and Seal

George Bark was proud when he saw the Victory Parade after the first Persian Gulf War, when American merchant mariners marched as equals with their military colleagues. But one thing bothered him; he saw no Merchant Marine service flag nor a seal. They didn't exist in 1991.

So Captain George H. Bark, USMS, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Class of 1944, decided to create one. In 1993, he and the late Walter Oates, MARAD Public Affairs Officer, created the U.S. Merchant Marine flag. Captain Bark adapted the design on the flag and created a seal, which got MARAD approval in 1999.

His design for the seal was included in the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Maritime Administrator William G. Schubert noted recently, "Nothing gives me more pride when driving through Washington than to see the U.S. Merchant Marine flag flying outside the U.S. Navy Memorial and the U.S. Merchant Marine seal at the National World War II Memorial."



The Maritime Protective Service is hosting the Ship Operations Cooperative Program's (SOCP) first 2005 meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. On March 8 to 10, ship owners, operators, academia, suppliers, port authority representatives, and a multitude of other maritime industry representatives will participate in deliberations, panels, and technical presentations. Discussions on the mariner administrative card, mariner recruitment and retention, computer-based training will be among the topics for discussion.

For cost-free registration, contact Kim Rester at kim.rester@marad.dot.gov or (202) 366-0364. Additional information about SOCP's meeting can be found at www.socp.org

Upcoming Events

Ship Operations Cooperative Program's First 2005 Conference

Sponsored by the Maritime Protective Service
March 8-10, 2005
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Contact Kim Rester at (202) 366-0364
www.socp.org

NCBFAA's 2005 Annual Conference

"Complying with Government Initiatives: Defining Our New Role"
March 13-17, 2005
San Diego, CA
www.ncbfaa.org

Navy League of the United States' 2005 Sea-Air-Space Expo

March 22-24, 2005
Washington, DC
www.navyleague.org

AAPA's Annual Spring Conference

Washington, DC
April 4-6, 2005
(703) 684-5700

If you know of an upcoming event you would like published in the *MARAD Update*, please submit it to Ella Thomas at ella.thomas@marad.dot.gov.